

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Vienna Migration Conference hosting Afghan Chairman Abdullah Abdullah, African Union Commissioner El Fadil and ministers from BiH, Greece, Hungary and Tajikistan**

Vienna, 14 October 2021 – The sixth Vienna Migration Conference (VMC) on 19-20 October will bring together top-level decision-makers to discuss game-changing trends that could alter the landscape of negotiations around migration to Europe. Titled “Reimagining migration partnerships: Challenges, opportunities and strategies”.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing, and fresh migratory challenges forcing countries to reassess their strategies, the conference seeks to answer how we can reimagine cooperation between partners on the key migration routes to Europe.

The VMC 2021 will open with a high-level political panel to address displacement from Afghanistan and the need for Europe to strengthen partnerships with regional neighbours. Panellists will include Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan and Sharaf Sheralizoda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tajikistan.

Subsequent sessions will address the need for sustainable African-European migration partnerships and explore the realities on the ground across key routes. Confirmed speakers include: Amira El Fadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission, Notis Mitarachi, Minister for Migration and Asylum, Greece, Selmo Cikotic, Minister of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary.

ICMPD's Director General, Michael Spindelegger, states that: “Events in Afghanistan and COVID-19’s acceleration of pre-existing issues have reignited the conversation about Europe’s approach towards migration and the prospect of another 2015. To avoid similar crises, Europe must continue to strengthen its migration diplomacy and demonstrate its commitment to solve migration challenges through partnerships.”

The conference will take place in a hybrid format, with 150 stakeholders joining in-person at Palais Niederoesterreich and all sessions streamed online. COVID-19 regulations and precautionary measures required a significantly reduced number of participants. ICMPD looks forward to return to a full-capacity VMC in 2022.

The VMC will retain its core focus: to assess the geo-politics of partnerships, including major challenges negotiated between key players, and explore how a holistic approach can deliver better results.

Upon registration, guests can access the live stream at: [www.vienna-migration-conference.org](http://www.vienna-migration-conference.org).

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organisation with 18 Member States and more than 460 staff members. Active in more than 90 countries worldwide, it takes a regional approach in its work to create efficient cooperation and partnerships along migration routes. Priority regions include Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Mediterranean, Silk Routes, Western Balkans and Turkey. Its three-pillar approach to migration management – structurally linking research, migration dialogues and capacity building – contributes to better migration policy development worldwide. The Vienna-based organisation has a mission in Brussels, a regional office in Malta and project offices in several countries. ICMPD receives funding from its Member States, the European Commission, the UN and other multilateral institutions, as well as bilateral donors. Founded in 1993, ICMPD holds UN observer status and cooperates with more than 700 partners including EU institutions and UN agencies.

*For more information about ICMPD visit: [www.icmpd.org](http://www.icmpd.org)*

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